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09/462295
To be assigned

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.
PCT/JP99/02384

INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE
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PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED
May 8, 1998

TITLE OF INVENTION PACKET TRANSMISSION METHOD, PACKET TRANSMISSION SYSTEM AND PACKET DATA
TRANSMISSION MEDIUM ON MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK SYSTEM

APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US Akihisa Najakima, Hiroshi Nakamura, Teruki Niwa, Yukichi Saito, Tomoyuki Ohtani and Hideo Morita

Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:

1. ☒ This is a **FIRST** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
2. ☐ This is a **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
3. ☐ This express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)) at any time rather than delay examination until the expiration of the applicable time limit set in 35 U.S.C. 371(b) and PCT Articles 22 and 39(1).
4. ☐ A proper Demand for International Preliminary Examination was made by the 19th month from the earliest claimed priority date.
5. ☒ A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2))
 - a. ☐ is transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).
 - b. ☒ has been transmitted by the International Bureau.
 - c. ☐ is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US).
6. ☒ A translation of the International Application into English (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)).
7. ☒ Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3))
 - a. ☐ are transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).
 - b. ☐ have been transmitted by the International Bureau.
 - c. ☐ have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.
 - d. ☒ have not been made and will not be made.
8. ☐ A translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).
9. ☒ An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)).
10. ☐ A translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)).

Items 11. to 16. below concern document(s) or information included:

11. ☐ An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
12. ☒ An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.
13. ☒ A FIRST preliminary amendment.
☐ A SECOND or SUBSEQUENT preliminary amendment.
14. ☐ A substitute specification.
15. ☐ A change of power of attorney and/or address letter.
16. ☐ Other items or information:

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17. ☒ The following fees are submitted:**BASIC NATIONAL FEE (37 CFR 1.492 (a) (1) - (5)) :**

Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482)
nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO
and International Search Report not prepared by the EPO or JPO **\$970.00**

International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to
USPTO but International Search Report prepared by the EPO or JPO **\$840.00**

International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but
international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO **\$760.00**

International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482)
but all claims did not satisfy provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) **\$670.00**

International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482)
and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) **\$96.00**

ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT =**CALCULATIONS PTO USE ONLY**

\$ 840

Surcharge of **\$130.00** for furnishing the oath or declaration later than ☐ 20 ☐ 30
months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(e)).

\$

CLAIMS	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE
Total claims	25 - 20 =	5	X \$18.00
Independent claims	3 - 3 =	0	X \$78.00
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM(S) (if applicable)			+ \$260.00

\$ 90

\$

\$

TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =

\$ 90

Reduction of 1/2 for filing by small entity, if applicable. A Small Entity Statement
must also be filed (Note 37 CFR 1.9, 1.27, 1.28).

\$

SUBTOTAL =

\$ 930

Processing fee of **\$130.00** for furnishing the English translation later than ☐ 20 ☐ 30
months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(f)).

\$

+

TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =

\$

Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be
accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31). **\$40.00** per property

\$

40

+

TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =

\$ 970

Amount to be:

refunded

\$

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\$

a. ☒ A check in the amount of \$ 930 to cover the above fees is enclosed.

b. ☐ Please charge my Deposit Account No. _____ in the amount of \$ _____ to cover the above fees.
A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

c. ☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any
overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-4270. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.

SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO

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SIGNATURE.

Larry Liberchuk

NAME

40,352

REGISTRATION NUMBER

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Akihisa Najakima, et al.

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Title: PACKET TRANSMISSION METHOD, PACKET
TRANSMISSION SYSTEM AND PACKET DATA
TRANSMISSION MEDIUM ON MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS
NETWORK SYSTEM

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Concurrently with the filing of the above-referenced application and prior to the substantive examination thereof, please amend the above-referenced application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 9, 10, 19, 21 and 25 as follows:

In Claim 9:

line 2, delete "or 8".

In Claim 10:

lines 1-2, delete "any one of claims 1-9" and insert --claim 1-- therefor.

In Claim 19:

line 2, delete "or 18".

In Claim 21:

lines 1-2, delete "any one of claims 11-20" and insert --claim 11-- therefor.

In Claim 25:

lines 1-2, delete "any one of claims 22-24" and insert --claim 22-- therefor.

REMARKS


After entry of this amendment to eliminate multiple dependency claims, it is believed that the above-referenced application is ready for substantive examination by the Examiner. Early and favorable examination thereof is, therefore, respectfully requested.

In the event that additional cooperation in this case may be helpful to complete its prosecution, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account No. 02-4270.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: January 6, 2000


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SPECIFICATION

TITLE OF THE INVENTION

PACKET TRANSMISSION METHOD, PACKET TRANSMISSION SYSTEM AND
PACKET DATA TRANSMISSION MEDIUM ON MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS
NETWORK SYSTEM

TECHNICAL FIELD

The present invention relates to a packet transmission
method, a packet transmission system and a packet data
transmission medium for transmitting digital information
5 on a mobile communications network system, and more
particularly to a packet transmission method, a packet
transmission system and a packet data transmission medium
according to the IP, the Internet protocol.

10 BACKGROUND ART

Conventionally, there has been a packet transmission
system such as the Internet constructed on a mobile
communications network system. The conventional system
carries out unique control inherent in the mobile network
15 to achieve location address management and pursuit calling
inherent in mobile radio communications. To perform the
unique control inherent in the mobile radio communications

on the packet information sent from other systems, IP datagram encapsulation according to the known communications RFC technique is carried out (see, pp. 800-803 of "Internet RFC handbook" supervised by Hidematsu KASANO, Ascii Corp. Tokyo, 1998). It converts in a fixed node of the mobile communications network system the packet information into a packet according to the protocol of the mobile communications network system by encapsulating the packet information with a packet according to the protocol in the mobile communications network system, and transmits the packet through the mobile communications network system. The packet is transmitted to a mobile station after removing the encapsulating packet in a fixed node near the mobile station in the mobile communications network system.

Such a conversion, however, imposes overload on the node that carries out the conversion according to the protocol of the mobile communications network system.

Besides, the encapsulation of the packet increases an amount of the information to be transmitted by that amount.

In addition, the transmission path can be lengthened because the information is transmitted to the mobile station through the fixed node that carries out the protocol conversion service.

However, constructing a seamless system matching an external protocol is difficult because the transmission path of the packet cannot be identified as in the fixed

network because of the roaming of a terminal in the mobile communications network system.

An object of the present invention is to construct on the mobile communications network system a seamless packet
5 transmission system that can obviate the necessity for carrying out the protocol conversion between the mobile communications network system and an external packet transmission system.

10 DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION

To accomplish the object, the present invention provides a packet transmission method in a mobile communications network system for routing a packet using an IP address between a user in a mobile communications
15 network system and a user inside or outside the mobile communications network system, the packet transmission method comprising the steps of:

storing a location address and a user identifier of the user in the mobile communications network system into
20 the IP address within a packet transmitted and/or received by the user in the mobile communications network system; and

routing the packet in accordance with the location address and the user identifier in the IP address. This
25 makes it possible to implement a packet transmission method based on the IP address throughout the mobile communications network system and the external system.

The location address may have a hierarchical structure.

The hierarchical structure may comprise at least a network identifier indicating a subdivided network of the mobile communications network, and a node identifier provided in connection with a termination node of an access link in the network.

The packet transmission method further comprising the steps of:

- 10 routing the packet to the network in accordance with the network identifier;
- routing the packet to the termination node in accordance with the node identifier; and
- transmitting the packet from the termination node by
- 15 selecting an access link of a related mobile communications network in accordance with the user identifier.

The packet transmission method further comprising the steps of:

- 20 routing the packet to the termination node, referring to the location address in its entirety; and
- transmitting the packet from the termination node by selecting an access link of a related mobile communications network in accordance with the user identifier.

At least the location address constituting the IP address may be transmitted to the user in the mobile communications network system or to the user inside or outside the mobile communications network system, when an

access link is established between the user in the mobile communications network system and the mobile communications network system.

5 The packet transmission method further comprising the steps of:

storing an IP address in connection with a domain name in a database in a domain-name server;

10 having the domain-name server send the IP address back to the user in the mobile communications network system or to the user inside or outside mobile communications network system in response to an inquiry from the user about the IP address using the domain name; and

having the user that sends the inquiry carry out a packet communication using the IP address sent back.

15 The inquiry is sent to the domain-name server, if the access link is not established then an access link is established.

20 The domain-name server generates the IP address by acquiring from the mobile communications network system a location address of the user in the mobile communications network system. Thus managing the IP address by the domain-name server enables the packet communications by the IP address including a location address.

25 The packet including the IP address may be routed in accordance with the IP address with or without encapsulating the packet.

The foregoing object of the present invention can also

be implemented in the form of the following packet transmission system. Specifically, the present invention provides a packet transmission system in a mobile communications network system for routing a packet using an IP address between a user in a mobile communications network system and a user inside or outside the mobile communications network system, the packet transmission system comprising:

means for storing a location address and a user identifier of the user in the mobile communications network system into the IP address within a packet transmitted and/or received by the user in the mobile communications network system; and

means for routing the packet in accordance with the location address and the user identifier in the IP address. This makes it possible to implement a packet transmission system based on the IP address throughout the mobile communications network system and the external system.

The location address may have a hierarchical structure. The hierarchical structure may comprise at least a network identifier indicating a subdivided network of the mobile communications network, and a node identifier provided in connection with a termination node of an access link in the network.

The packet transmission system further comprising:
means for routing the packet to the network in accordance with the network identifier;

means for routing the packet to the termination node in accordance with the node identifier; and

means for transmitting the packet from the termination node by selecting an access link of a related mobile communications network in accordance with the user identifier.

The packet transmission system further comprising:

means for routing the packet to the termination node, referring to the location address in its entirety; and

means for transmitting the packet from the termination node by selecting an access link of a related mobile communications network in accordance with the user identifier.

At least the location address constituting the IP address may be transmitted to the user in the mobile communications network system or to the user inside or outside the mobile communications network system, when an access link may be established between the user in the mobile communications network system and the mobile communications network system.

The packet transmission system further comprising:

a domain-name server including a database storing an IP address in connection with a domain name;

means for having the domain-name server send the IP address back to the user in the mobile communications network system or to the user inside or outside mobile communications network system in response to an inquiry

from the user about the IP address using the domain name;
and

means for having the user that sends the inquiry carry
out a packet communication using the IP address sent back.

5 The inquiry may be sent to the domain-name server, if
the access link is not established then an access link is
established.

10 The domain-name server may generate the IP address by
acquiring from the mobile communications network system
a location address of the user in the mobile communications
network system. Thus managing the IP address by the
domain-name server enables packet communications by the
IP address including a location address.

15 Furthermore, the present invention provides the
packet transmission system further comprising a
domain-name server including a database for storing an
access link termination node in a subdivided network in
the mobile communications network in connection with an
IP address and a domain name;

20 wherein the access link termination node includes:

access link management means for establishing or
releasing an access link;

means for storing the location address;

25 means for storing user location registration
information in a memory in response to a location
registration request from a user, and for providing the
user with the location address of the user; and

means for transmitting the user location registration information to the domain-name server in response to the location registration request from the user, and

wherein the domain-name server includes:

- 5 means for storing the IP address including the location address of the user;

means for receiving the user location registration information from the access link termination node; and

- means for updating the IP address using the user
10 location registration information received.

The packet including the IP address may be routed in accordance with the IP address with or without encapsulating the packet.

- Finally, the foregoing object of the present invention
15 can be implemented in the form of the following packet data transmission medium. Specifically, a packet data transmission medium in a mobile communications network system for routing a packet using an IP address between a user in a mobile communications network system and a user
20 inside or outside the mobile communications network system, the packet data transmission medium storing a location address and a user identifier of the user in the mobile communications network system into the IP address within a packet transmitted and/or received by the user in the
25 mobile communications network system.

The location address may have a hierarchical structure.

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The hierarchical structure may compris at least a network identifier indicating a subdivided network of the mobile communications network, and a node identifier provided in connection with a termination node of an access link in the network.

The packet data transmission medium may consist of a packet data signal.

The configuration according to the present invention can facilitate the packet transmission in the mobile communications network and from the outside. This is because it incorporates the location address (LA) and user identifier as an integral part of the IP address.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 is a block diagram showing a mobile communications network system for constructing a packet transmission system in accordance with the present invention;

Fig. 2 is a diagram illustrating a structure of an IP address including a location address (LA) used in the present invention;

Fig. 3 is a diagram illustrating IP address acquisition when originating a packet communication from a mobile communications network in accordance with the present invention;

Fig. 4 is a diagram illustrating IP address acquisition when originating a packet communication from

another user in accordance with the present invention;

Fig. 5 is a diagram illustrating an access link setting carried out when a power supply is turned on in accordance with the present invention;

5 Fig. 6 is a diagram illustrating an access link setting carried out when accessing a domain-name server in accordance with the present invention;

Fig. 7 is a diagram illustrating registration to a domain-name server of the correspondence between a mobile station identity IMUI and name in accordance with the
10 present invention;

Fig. 8 is a diagram illustrating an access link setting carried out using the IMUI in accordance with the present invention;

15 Figs. 9A and Fig. 9B are diagrams illustrating a hierarchical location address in accordance with the present invention;

Fig. 10 is a diagram showing the relationship between Figs. 10A and 10B;

20 Figs. 10A and 10B are diagrams illustrating routing carried out using a location address in accordance with the present invention;

Fig. 11 is a block diagram showing a hardware configuration of an M-DNS in accordance with present
25 invention; and

Fig. 12 is a block diagram showing a hardware configuration of an IP-CNV in accordance with the present

invention.

BEST MODE FOR CARRYING OUT THE INVENTION

The preferred embodiments in accordance with the
5 invention will now be described with reference to the
accompanying drawings. The following preferred
embodiments in accordance with the present invention are
only examples of the present invention. The present
invention is not limited by the embodiments, and can be
10 implemented by other embodiments.

Fig. 1 schematically shows a mobile communications
network system for implementing the packet transmission
in accordance with the present invention. First, a
configuration of the mobile communications network system
15 will be described.

A signal from a mobile station (MS) 102 (to which a
user PC terminal or the like not shown in this figure can
be connected) is received by base stations (BS) 104 and
106, passes through a radio network center (RNC) 108 or
20 110, and through a switching system such as a subscriber
access server 112 or 114 and a routing node 116 or 118,
and is connected to a user's telephone or PC terminal or
the like (not shown) of an external public circuit network
126 (such as INS-C, DDX-C and the like) or of a public packet
25 data network 128 (such as INS-P, DDX-P and the like). A
mobile service control point (M-SCP) 124 functioning as
a home memory for carrying out location management of

mobile stations, which characterizes the mobile communications network system, is accessed through a common channel signaling network 120.

On such a mobile communications network system, is
5 constructed a packet transmission system (IP network:
IP-NW) 150 using the IP of the Internet according to the
present invention. To implement it, it is necessary for
the routing node or subscriber access server in the core
network, a wire portion of the existing mobile
10 communications network, to have a router function for
routing in accordance with IP addresses. The router
function is identical to the router function used on the
Internet, which can be easily implemented by those skilled
in the art. In the present invention, an IP converter
15 (IP-CNV) characterizing the present invention is installed
in the subscriber access servers 112 and 114, and a mobile
domain-name server (M-DNS) 402 with special functions is
installed as a domain-name server needed for the packet
transmission of the Internet. These functions will be
20 described below.

In Fig. 1, the subscriber access servers 112 and 114
include the IP-CNV operating as a link termination node,
and the IP-NW 150 includes them. However, a node for
installing the IP-CNV in the mobile communications network
25 system may be the radio network centers (RNC) 108 and 110,
base stations (BS) 106 and 104, or mobile station (MS) 102
in Fig. 1. Thus, the node installing the IP-CNV becomes

a link termination node, and the IP-NW is composed of the node installing the IP-CNV and its higher order nodes.

In the present embodiment, the IP-CNV is installed in the subscriber access server for convenience sake.

5 Describing the embodiment will make it obvious for those skilled in the art to apply the present invention to cases in which the IP-CNV is installed in other nodes of another mobile communications network system.

10 [Structure of an IP address]

First, a structure of the IP address applied to the IP according to the present invention will be described with reference to Fig. 2. In Fig. 2, a prefix 202 is provided for indicating an address type such as a single
15 address, multicast address or the like. Next, a location address (LA) 204, which characterizes the present invention, is provided. The location address usually corresponds to a subnetwork address. The location address is provided for each IP-CNV (such as a subscriber switching
20 system like a subscriber access server) operating as a terminal node of the access link in the network, and constitutes the IP address of a user communicating through the Internet using a mobile station (102 of Fig. 1) under the control of the mobile switching system (112 of Fig.
25 1, for example). Finally, a user identifier (user ID) 206 such as a mobile station identity IMUI is provided for identifying a user. It is uniquely assigned to each user.

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The IP address according to the present invention can be split into the foregoing three components, part of which includes the user identifier and the location address indicating the location of the mobile station in the mobile communications network. They are used in their entirety for identifying the user in the mobile communications network system, and for controlling the packet transmission.

Next, the hardware configuration of the M-DNS and IP-CNV characterizing the present invention will be described with reference to Figs. 11 and 12.

[Hardware configuration of the M-DNS]

A hardware configuration of an M-DNS is shown in Fig. 11. An M-DNS 1102 comprises a CPU 1104, a user information database 1106 and external interface equipment 1108. The user information database 1106 stores domain names and IP addresses (each of which includes a location address and a user identifier) in the user information, and relates them to each other. Other user information such as a telephone number or a link identifier like IMUI can also be stored and related to each other. The external interface equipment 1108 functions as an interface for connecting the M-DNS 1102 to an IP network 1110 or a common channel signaling network 1112, which can be implemented by a common router, DSU or TA well-known as Internet technology. The CPU 1104 controls the user information

database 1106 and external interface equipment 1108. Specifically, as will be described later in connection with another embodiment, the CPU 1104 receives user location registration information (such as the IP address including the location address and user identifier) from the IP-CNV through the external interface equipment 1108, and updates the IP address of the user information database 1106 by the location registration information.

10 [Hardware configuration of the IP-CNV]

A hardware configuration of the IP-CNV functioning as an access link termination node is shown in Fig. 12. The IP-CNV 1202 comprises a CPU 1204, a memory 1206 and external interface equipment 1212. The memory 1206 includes self-location addresses 1208 and user ID information 1210. A location address set is uniquely provided for each access link termination node (that is, for each IP- CNV), with storing its values in the memory 1202 in advance as the self-location addresses 1208. The memory 1206 also includes the user ID information 1210 for registering user identifiers corresponding to a self-visitor location subnetwork. It can also store telephone numbers and link identifiers like IMUI as other user ID information. The external interface equipment 1212 functions as an interface for connecting the IP-CNV 1202 to an IP network 1214 or a radio network 1216. For example, it functions as a router, DSU and TA that are well known in the Internet

technology. The CPU 1204 controls the memory 1206 and external interface equipment 1212. Specifically, as will be described later in connection with another embodiment, the CPU 1204 carries out access link management such as establishment or release of an access link taking the opportunity of user's access link establishment request or release request, receives a user location registration request (including user identifier) through the external interface equipment 1212, stores the user identifier into the user ID information 1210 in the memory 1206, provides the user with the self-location address 1208 through the external interface equipment 1212, and transmits to the M-DNS the user location registration information (including the self-location address and the identifier of the user) in response to the location registration request from the user.

[Calling from a mobile station]

First, a procedure by which a terminal user of a mobile station acquires a location address (LA) and learns his or her own IP address will be described with reference to Fig. 3, when the user originates a calling through the Internet (as an IP host).

In Fig. 3, a terminal 302 like a mobile computer is connected to a mobile station 304. An IP-CNV 306 is installed in a subscriber switching system to be connected with the mobile station 304. The IP-CNV 306 is provided

with a location address LA as a visitor location subnetwork.

The terminal 302 has the user ID described above.

The user (IP host) of the terminal 302 is about to establish an Internet connection with a party user (IP client) 308

5 through the mobile station 304. The party user 308 may be a user either in the mobile communications system

(mobile station) or in the outside of the mobile

communications system (such as a public circuit network or public packet data network). The user 302 transmits

10 a location registration request to the IP-CNV. To achieve this, the user establishes an access link using an access link management means of the IP-CNV through a normal call setup procedure of the mobile station (step 301).

Receiving the user location registration request, the

15 IP-CNV 306 notifies the terminal 302 of the self-location address (LA) (1208 of Fig. 12) prestored as the visitor location subnetwork through the setup link (step 302).

Incidentally, since the user possesses his or her own user identifier, it is unnecessary for the IP-CNV to include

20 the user identifier in the notification information. Thus, the IP-CNV can send a NULL signal ("0"s as in the present embodiment, for example) as the user ID in the notification.

The terminal 302 completes its own IP address in the

Internet using the notified LA. More specifically, it

25 places the notified LA and its own user identifier in the IP address. The IP-CNV 306 registers the user ID included in the location registration request into the memory (user

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ID information 1210 in Fig. 12) as the user location registration information (step 303) so that the IP-CNV 306 can recognize the terminal 302 as a terminal connected to this subnetwork. The terminal 302 operates as an Internet terminal, and accesses the party user 308 using its own IP address (including the LA and user ID) as its own calling address (step 304). The user 308 assembles a packet to be transmitted to the terminal 302 by using as the terminating address (destination address) the IP address that is notified as the calling address and includes the LA of the terminal 302, so that the routing in the mobile communications network is carried out (step 305).

In this way, the terminal 302 transmits a packet using the IP address including the LA and user ID as its own address, and can receive a packet from the party.

[Calling from another user]

A calling procedure from the party user (IP host) 308 to the user (IP client) 302 having the IP address including the LA in the mobile communications network will be described with reference to Fig. 4.

In Fig. 4, the user 308 is about to conduct a packet communication with the user of the terminal 302 connected to the mobile station 304 in the network, using the IP address including the LA and user ID. Let us assumed here that the access link of the mobile communications network (that is, the IP-CNV) to the user 302 has already been

established (establishment of such an access link is not described here, because it will be described later), and the relation between the IP address including the LA at the access link establishment and the domain name (name) of the user 302 has already been registered in the database of the M-DNS 402, the domain-name server in the mobile communications network (registration to the M-DNS is not described here, because it will be described later).

First, the user 308 sends to the M-DNS 402 an inquiry including the name of the user 302 (step 401). The M-DNS 402 searches the user information database (1106 of Fig. 11) using the name of the user 302, obtains the IP address of the user 302 including the corresponding LA and the like (step 402), and sends the IP address obtained by the search back to the user 308 (step 403). The user 308 assembles a packet using the IP address obtained as the called address (destination address) and transmits the packet. The mobile communications network carries out routing in the network up to the subnetwork IP-CNV 306 using the LA in the IP address (step 404). The IP-CNV 306 transmits the packet to the access link corresponding to the mobile station 304, using the user ID in the IP address (step 405). This enables the terminal user 302 to receive the packet transmitted from the user 308. The user 302 assembles a response packet by placing in its calling address section the IP address including its own LA, and sends the packet back to the user 308 (steps 406 and 407).

In Fig. 4, the foregoing explanation is made on the assumption that the access link has been established with the terminal 302, and the relation between the IP address including the LA of the user 302 and the domain name (name) has been registered in the M-DNS 402. The establishment of the access link and the registration to the M-DNS 402 will now be described in more detail.

[Establishment of the access link]

10 The establishment of the access link by the terminal 302 connected to the mobile station can be implemented in the following two methods.

(1) Establishment of the access link taking the opportunity of power up of the terminal.

15 The access link is automatically set up by the terminal 302 when the mobile station 304 and terminal 302 is turned on, that is, when the terminal 302 becomes accessible from other terminals.

20 The establishment of the access link will now be described with reference to Fig. 5.

 When the power of the mobile station 304 and terminal 302 is turned on, an access link is set up between the terminal 302 and the IP-CNV 306 in the same manner as the call setup in the mobile communications network (step 501).
25 The identifier of the user is sent to the IP-CNV as a location registration request when establishing the access link. The IP-CNV 306 sends the LA (visitor location

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subnetwork) assigned thereto back to the terminal (step 502). The terminal 302 completes its own IP address by recording the LA received. The IP-CNV 306 stores the user ID of the terminal 302 into the user ID information area (1210 of Fig. 12) in the memory as the user location registration information, and relates the IP address of the subnetwork in the Internet with the access link as the mobile communications network (step 503). At the same time, it notifies the M-DNS 402 of the IP address including the LA of the terminal 302 (step 504). The M-DNS 402 registers it in connection with the domain name (name), using the user ID, for example (step 505).

(2) Establishment of the access link taking the opportunity of an inquiry using the name.

As illustrated in connection with Fig. 4, when accessed by another user, an inquiry is sent to the M-DNS 402, first. The access to the terminal 302, if it has not yet been established, can be carried out by establishing the access to the terminal 302 taking the opportunity of the inquiry.

To achieve this, the M-DNS 402 is configured such that it has a flag for indicating whether an access link is established or not, and commands IP-CNV 306 to establish the access link when the flag is in the OFF state (that is, when the link is not set up). This will be described in more detail with reference to Fig. 6.

In Fig. 6, the user 308 is about to transmit a packet

to the user of the terminal 302 connected to the mobile station 304.

As in Fig. 4, the user 308 sends an inquiry including the domain name (name) to the M-DNS 402 (step 601) to have
5 the name converted to the IP address (step 602). In this case, a complete IP address including the LA cannot be obtained, but only the user ID is obtained, because the flag indicating the access link establishment is in the OFF state. Thus, the M-DNS 402 tries to set up the access
10 link (step 603). First, the M-DNS 402, using the user ID, sends an inquiry about the location address to an M-NSP 124 that manages the location and the like of the mobile station (step 604). The user ID must be made identical to the identification number like the telephone number of
15 the mobile station, which is used by the mobile communications network for the location management. The M-NSP 124 sends the LA indicating the location back to the M-DNS 402 (step 605), and the M-DNS 402 makes a data entry of the LA in the database (step 606). Using the LA, the
20 M-DNS 402 commands the related IP-CNV 306 to set up an access link to the visitor mobile station 304 and terminal 302 (step 607). Receiving the command, the IP-CNV 306 establishes the access link to the visiting user 302 (step 608). The user 302 learns the visitor location subnetwork
25 (LA) (step 609), and records the IP address including his or her own LA in the terminal (step 610).

On the other hand, the M-DNS 402 sends back to the user

308 the IP address corresponding to the name (step 611).
The user 308 assembles a packet using the IP address as
the destination address, and transmits the packet (step
612). The IP-CNV 306, the routing destination, can
5 transfer the packet to the user 302 through the access link
because the access link has been established by the time
the packet is transferred.

In this way, the access link required can be set up
taking the opportunity of the access to the M-DNS 402.

10 The update of the IP address including the LA that is
registered in the M-DNS 402 can be made at the location
update of the M-NSP.

[When using a telephone number or the like as a user
15 identifier of an IP address]

There is also a system that uses a telephone number
in setting up an access link to a mobile station. Although
the user ID can be made identical to the telephone number
intentionally, the telephone number of the mobile station
20 substantially differs from the user ID of the IP address
which is independent of the mobile station to be connected.
Accordingly, in the setup taking the opportunity of the
access to the M-DNS 402, the M-DNS 402 can register not
only the relationship between the domain name and the IP
25 address, but also the relationship between the domain name
and the telephone number.

When setting up the access link using a unique

identifier(IMUI) affixed to a mobile station unrelated to the IP address, the domain name and the IMUI can also be registered in the M-DNS 402.

Fig. 7 is a diagram illustrating a process of
5 registering in the M-DNS 402 the telephone number or the IMUI of the mobile station 304 in connection with the domain name (name) through a login procedure from the terminal 302 connected to the mobile station 304.

First, the terminal user 302 calls a special service
10 that accepts the login, for example (step 701). Receiving the call, the IP-CNV 306 stores the telephone number or IMUI (step 702), and sends an inquiry to the user 302 about whether to carry out the login (step 703). The user carries out the login using his or her own domain name and password
15 (step 704). The IP-CNV 306 makes between it and M-DNS 402 the security check of a domain name base using the password (step 705), and then registers the telephone number or IMUI stored in connection with the domain name (step 706). The M-DNS 402 stores the telephone number or IMUI in the
20 database in connection with the domain name (step 707). Thus, the M-DNS 402 can store the telephone number or IMUI in correspondence with the name.

Using the telephone number or IMUI stored in the M-DNS 402 in connection with the name, an access link can be
25 established taking the opportunity of the access to the M-DNS 402. This will be described in reference to Fig. 8.

In Fig. 8, the user 308 is about to transmit a packet to the user of the terminal 302 connected to the mobile station 304.

As in Fig. 6, the user 308 sends an inquiry including
5 the domain name (name) to the M-DNS 402 (step 801) to have
the name converted to the telephone number or IMUI (step
802). In this case, because the flag indicating the access
link establishment is in the OFF state, the M-DNS 402 tries
to set up the access link (step 803). First, the M-DNS
10 402, using the telephone number or IMUI, sends an inquiry
about the location address to an M-NSP 124 that manages
the location and the like of the mobile station (step 804).
The M-NSP 124 sends the LA indicating the location back
to the M-DNS 402 (step 805), and the M-DNS 402 makes an
15 entry of the LA in the database to complete the IP address
(step 806). The M-DNS 402 commands the IP-CNV 306
corresponding to the location obtained to set up an access
link to the visitor mobile station 304 using the telephone
number or IMUI (step 807). Receiving the command, the
20 IP-CNV 306 establishes the access link to the visitor
mobile station (step 808). The user 302 learns the visitor
location subnetwork (LA) through the access link
established (step 809), and sets up in the terminal the
IP address including his or her own LA (step 810).

25 On the other hand, the M-DNS 402 sends back to the user
308 the IP address corresponding to the name (step 811).
The user 308 assembles a packet using the IP address as

the destination address, and transmits the packet (step 812). The IP-CNV 306, the routing destination, can transfer the packet to the user 302 through the access link because the access link has been established by the time
5 the packet is transferred.

[Hierarchically structured LA]

In the IP address as shown in Fig. 2, the location address (LA) can take a hierarchical structure. Such an
10 example will be described with reference to Fig. 9.

Fig. 9A illustrates a packet structure. A calling address 904 and a called address 906 each include a location address (LA) with a hierarchical structure. Fig. 9B illustrates an example of the hierarchical structure. The
15 prefix 908 in Fig. 9B indicates a type of the address structure. The LA 910 in Fig. 9B consists of a network identifier 912 and a node identifier 914. The network identifier 912 indicates a unit obtained by subdividing the mobile communications network to some areas. The node
20 identifier 914 identifies the IP-CNV, and constitutes an interface between the packet routing and the access link to a mobile station in the mobile communications network. The user identifier (user ID) 916 is a number unique to the user, which is fixed regardless of the roaming of the
25 user in the mobile communications network.

Figs. 10A and 10B illustrate an example of routing when using, as the user identification information including

the LA in the network, the total of 12 bits, consisting of a 4-bit network identifier 912, a 4-bit node identifier 914 and a 4-bit user identifier (user ID) 916.

In Figs. 10A and 10B, a user X of a calling user terminal
5 812 connected to a network NW3 810 inside or outside the mobile communications network is about to transmit a packet 800 to a user F of a called user terminal connected to a mobile station 850 in a subscriber node D in NW1 820 in the mobile communications network (the network identifier,
10 node identifier and user identifier of the called user terminal are "1010", "0101" and "0001", respectively).

The networks 820 and 830, and subscriber nodes 824, 826, 828, 834 and 836 are each provided with a network identifier and a node identifier. The network NW1 820 is
15 provided with a network identifier "1010", and the network NW2 830 is provided with a network identifier "0101". The subscriber node C 824 is provided with a node identifier "1100", the subscriber node D is provided with a node identifier "0101", and the subscriber node F is provided
20 with a node identifier "0011". These networks include routing nodes 814, 822 and 832 for routing packets transmitted thereto.

The packet 800 from the user terminal 812 is assigned as the calling address a network identifier, node
25 identifier and user identifier of "1010", "0101" and "0001", and is transmitted. A routing node 0 814 in the NW3 810, to which the user terminal 812 is connected, carries out

routing of the packet 800 using the network identifier (1010), and transmits it to the network NW1 820. In the network NW1 820, the routing node A 822 routs the packet to the subscriber node D 826 using the node identifier
5 (0101).

The subscriber node D 826 sets up an access link using the user identifier (0001), and transmits the packet 800 to the mobile station 850. The mobile station 850 is connected to two terminals, one of which is the terminal
10 852 whose user identifier is "0001". Thus, the terminal 852 receives the packet 800.

In this way, using the network identifier and node identifier constituting the location address LA enables a direct routing to an area visited by a mobile station
15 (an area 860 in which the user F is visiting in the foregoing example).

Although the foregoing routing is made in accordance with the location address with the hierarchical structure, direct routing of the packet 800 can also be made to the
20 subscriber node D using the entire location address ("10100101") in the routing node 0.

Thus incorporating the location address in the address in the packet enables the direct routing of the packet using the address.

25 While the present invention has been described in detail with respect to preferred embodiments and methods, it will be understood that numerous modifications, changes,

variations and equivalents will be made by those skilled in the art without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention.

In addition, specified elements, techniques and
5 embodiments can also be applied to the teachings of the present invention by implementing various changes without departing from the substantial idea of the present invention. Accordingly, it is intended that the invention herein be limited only by the scope of the appended claims.

10

INDUSTRIAL APPLICABILITY

As described above, the packet transmission method,
packet transmission system and packet data transmission
medium on the mobile communications network system in
15 accordance with the present invention is suitably applicable to the packet transmission according to the IP.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A packet transmission method in a mobile communications network system for routing a packet using an IP address between a user in a mobile communications network system and a user inside or outside the mobile communications network system, said packet transmission method comprising the steps of:

storing a location address and a user identifier of the user in the mobile communications network system into the IP address within a packet transmitted and/or received by the user in the mobile communications network system; and

routing the packet in accordance with the location address and the user identifier in the IP address.

2. The packet transmission method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the location address has a hierarchical structure.

3. The packet transmission method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the hierarchical structure comprises at least a network identifier indicating a subdivided network of the mobile communications network, and a node identifier provided in connection with a termination node of an access link in the network.

4. The packet transmission method as claimed in claim 3,

further comprising the steps of:

routing the packet to the network in accordance with the network identifier;

5 routing the packet to the termination node in accordance with the node identifier; and

transmitting the packet from the termination node by selecting an access link of a related mobile communications network in accordance with the user identifier.

10 5. The packet transmission method as claimed in claim 3, further comprising the steps of:

routing the packet to the termination node, referring to the location address in its entirety; and

15 transmitting the packet from the termination node by selecting an access link of a related mobile communications network in accordance with the user identifier.

20 6. The packet transmission method as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least the location address constituting the IP address is transmitted to the user in the mobile communications network system or to the user inside or outside the mobile communications network system, when an access link is established between the user in the mobile communications network system and the mobile
25 communications network system.

7. The packet transmission method as claimed in claim 6,

further comprising the steps of:

storing an IP address in connection with a domain name
in a database in a domain-name server;

having the domain-name server send the IP address back
5 to the user in the mobile communications network system
or to the user inside or outside mobile communications
network system in response to an inquiry from the user about
the IP address using the domain name; and

having the user that sends the inquiry carry out a
10 packet communication using the IP address sent back.

8. The packet transmission method as claimed in claim 7,
wherein when the inquiry is sent to the domain-name server,
if the access link is not established then an access link
15 is established.

9. The packet transmission method as claimed in claim 7
or 8, wherein the domain-name server generates the IP
address by acquiring from the mobile communications
20 network system a location address of the user in the mobile
communications network system.

10. The packet transmission method as claimed in any one
of claims 1-9, wherein the packet including the IP address
25 is routed in accordance with the IP address with or without
encapsulating the packet.

11. A packet transmission system in a mobile communications network system for routing a packet using an IP address between a user in a mobile communications network system and a user inside or outside the mobile communications network system, said packet transmission system comprising:

means for storing a location address and a user identifier of the user in the mobile communications network system into the IP address within a packet transmitted and/or received by the user in the mobile communications network system; and

means for routing the packet in accordance with the location address and the user identifier in the IP address.

12. The packet transmission system as claimed in claim 11, wherein the location address has a hierarchical structure.

13. The packet transmission system as claimed in claim 12, wherein the hierarchical structure comprises at least a network identifier indicating a subdivided network of the mobile communications network, and a node identifier provided in connection with a termination node of an access link in the network.

14. The packet transmission system as claimed in claim 13, further comprising:

means for routing the packet to the network in

accordance with the network identifier;

means for routing the packet to the termination node in accordance with the node identifier; and

means for transmitting the packet from the termination
5 node by selecting an access link of a related mobile
communications network in accordance with the user
identifier.

15. The packet transmission system as claimed in claim 13,
10 further comprising:

means for routing the packet to the termination node,
referring to the location address in its entirety; and

means for transmitting the packet from the termination
node by selecting an access link of a related mobile
15 communications network in accordance with the user
identifier.

16. The packet transmission system as claimed in claim 11,
wherein at least the location address constituting the IP
20 address is transmitted to the user in the mobile
communications network system or to the user inside or
outside the mobile communications network system, when an
access link is established between the user in the mobile
communications network system and the mobile
25 communications network system.

17. The packet transmission system as claimed in claim 16,

further comprising:

a domain-name server including a database storing an IP address in connection with a domain name;

means for having the domain-name server send the IP address back to the user in the mobile communications network system or to the user inside or outside mobile communications network system in response to an inquiry from the user about the IP address using the domain name; and

means for having the user that sends the inquiry carry out a packet communication using the IP address sent back.

18. The packet transmission system as claimed in claim 17, wherein when the inquiry is sent to the domain-name server, if the access link is not established then an access link is established.

19. The packet transmission system as claimed in claim 17 or 18, wherein the domain-name server generates the IP address by acquiring from the mobile communications network system a location address of the user in the mobile communications network system.

20. The packet transmission system as claimed in claim 11, further comprising a domain-name server including a database for storing an access link termination node in a subdivided network in the mobile communications network

in connection with an IP address and a domain name;
wherein said access link termination node includes:

access link management means for establishing or
releasing an access link;

5 means for storing the location address;

means for storing user location registration
information in a memory in response to a location
registration request from a user, and for providing the
user with the location address of the user; and

10 means for transmitting the user location registration
information to the domain-name server in response to the
location registration request from the user, and

wherein said domain-name server includes:

15 means for storing the IP address including the location
address of the user;

means for receiving the user location registration
information from the access link termination node; and

means for updating the IP address using the user
location registration information received.

20

21. The packet transmission system as claimed in any one
of claims 11-20, wherein the packet including the IP
address is routed in accordance with the IP address with
or without encapsulating the packet.

25

22. A packet data transmission medium in a mobile
communications network system for routing a packet using

an IP address between a user in a mobile communications network system and a user inside or outside the mobile communications network system, said packet data transmission medium storing a location address and a user identifier of the user in the mobile communications network system into the IP address within a packet transmitted and/or received by the user in the mobile communications network system.

23. The packet data transmission medium as claimed in claim 22, wherein the location address has a hierarchical structure.

24. The packet data transmission medium as claimed in claim 23, wherein the hierarchical structure comprises at least a network identifier indicating a subdivided network of the mobile communications network, and a node identifier provided in connection with a termination node of an access link in the network.

20

25. The packet data transmission medium as claimed in any one of claims 22-24, wherein the packet data transmission medium consists of a packet data signal.

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An address structure in mobile communications network facilitating routing of a packet. At the initial position of the address, is located a prefix or the like indicating the type of the address structure, which indicates the present mobile communications network system, for example. At the next position, a location address (LA) is located characterizing the present invention. The location address is usually placed at the position of a subnetwork address. The location address (LA) is provided for each mobile switching system, and constitutes part of an IP address of a user using a mobile station under the control of the mobile switching system. At the final position, is located a user identifier (user ID) which is used for identifying a user, and is provided uniquely for each user. The IP address in accordance with the present invention can be split into the foregoing three sections, part of which includes the location address and user identifier indicating the location of the mobile station in the mobile communications network, thereby enabling the identification of the user in the mobile communications network system and the control of the packet transmission.

MOBILE
COMMUNICATIONS
NETWORK

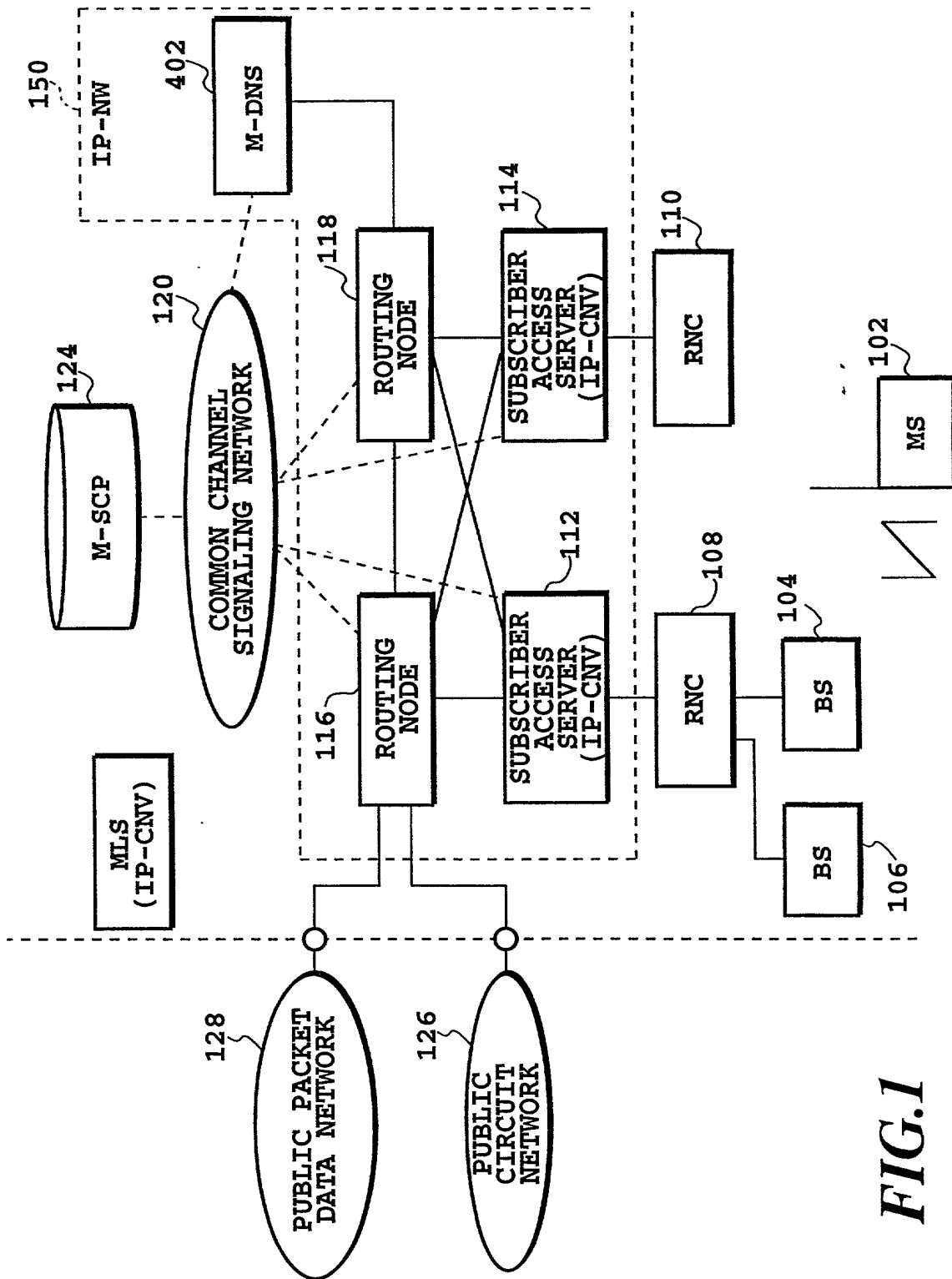
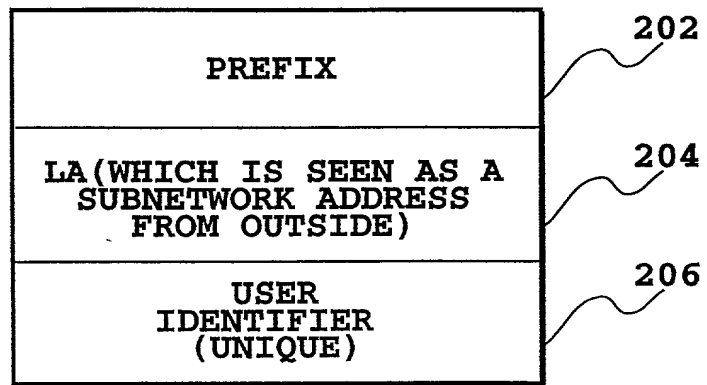


FIG.1

**FIG.2**

000000" 56229460

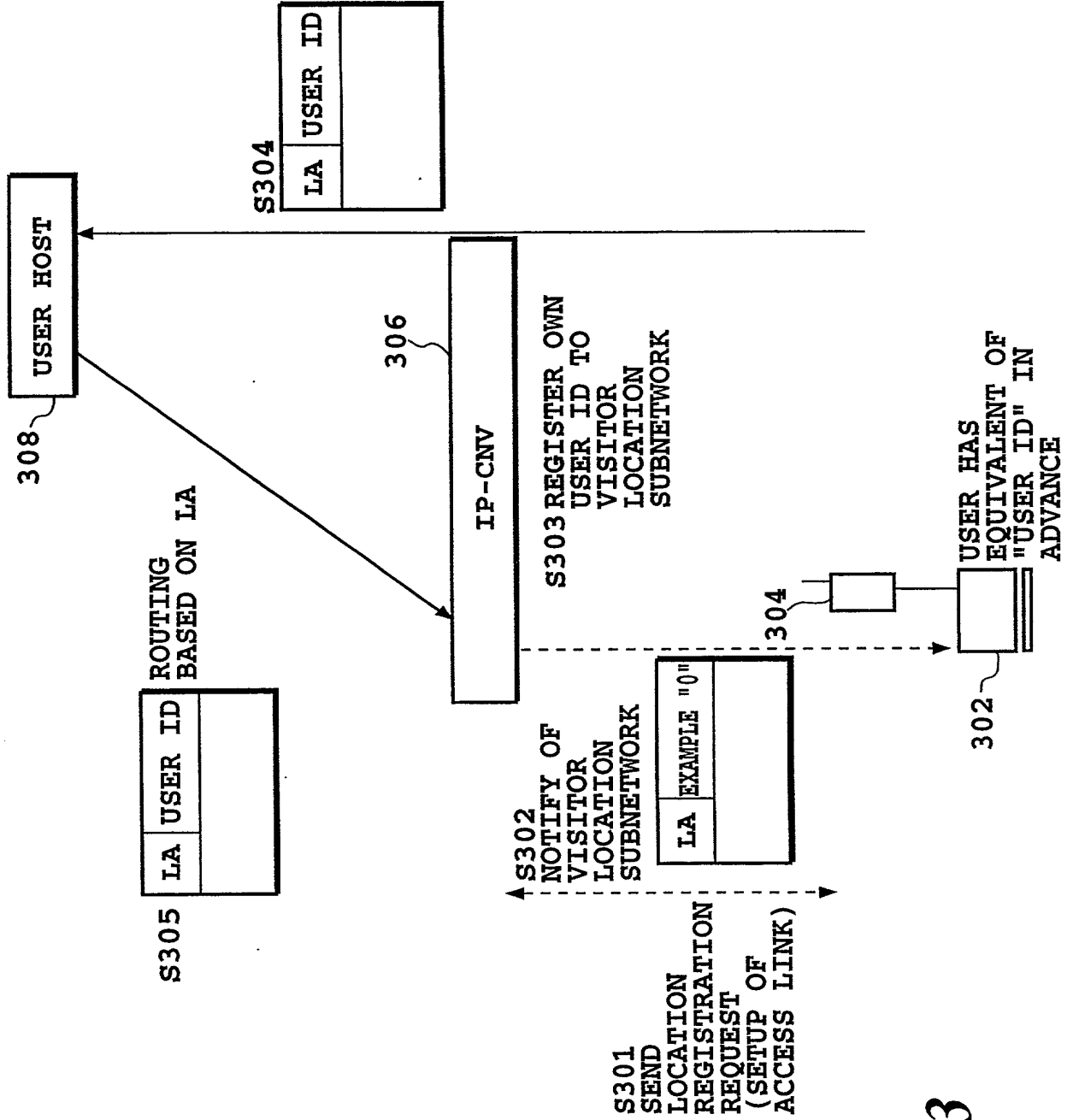


FIG.3

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009070" 56229460

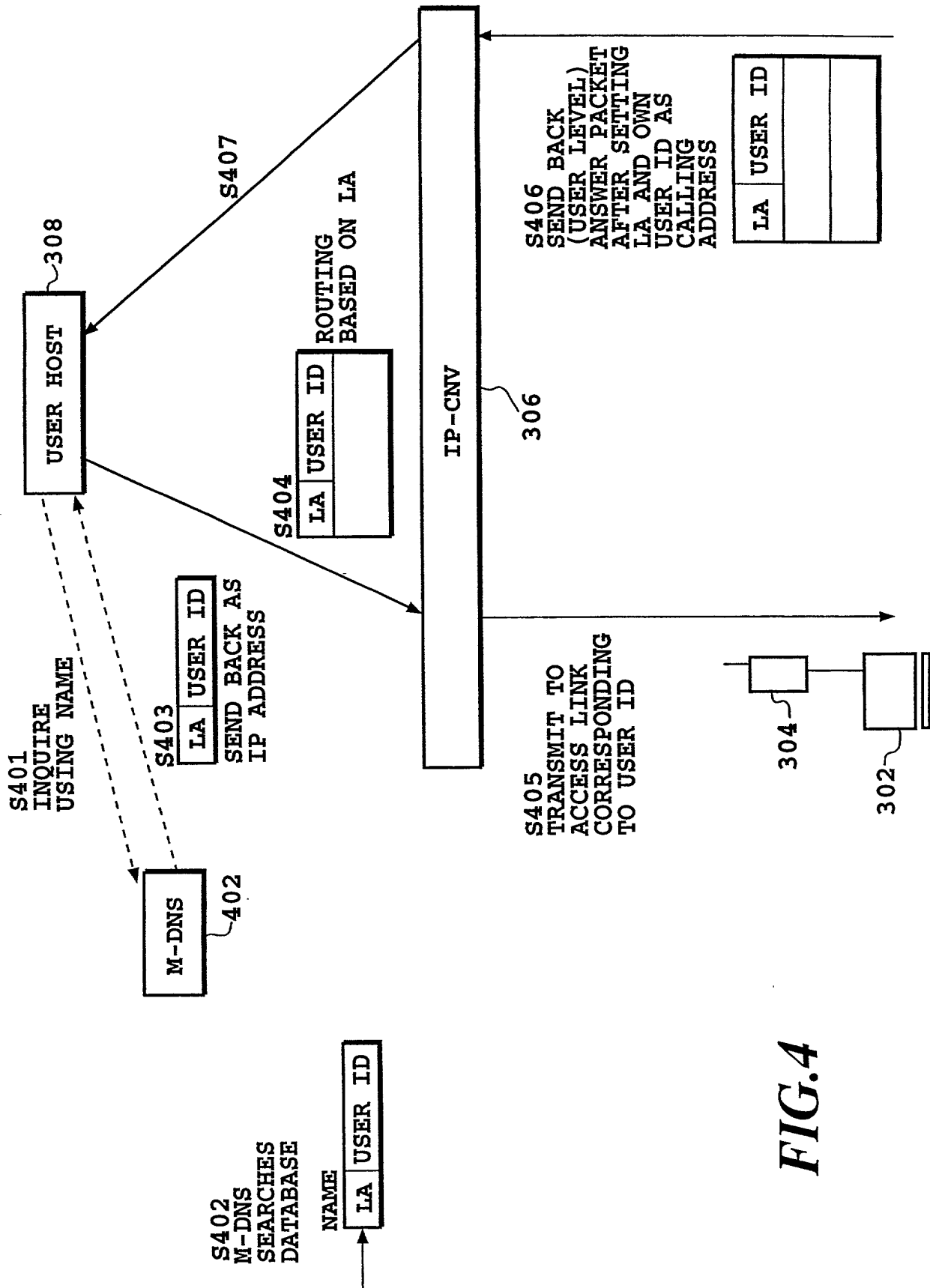


FIG.4

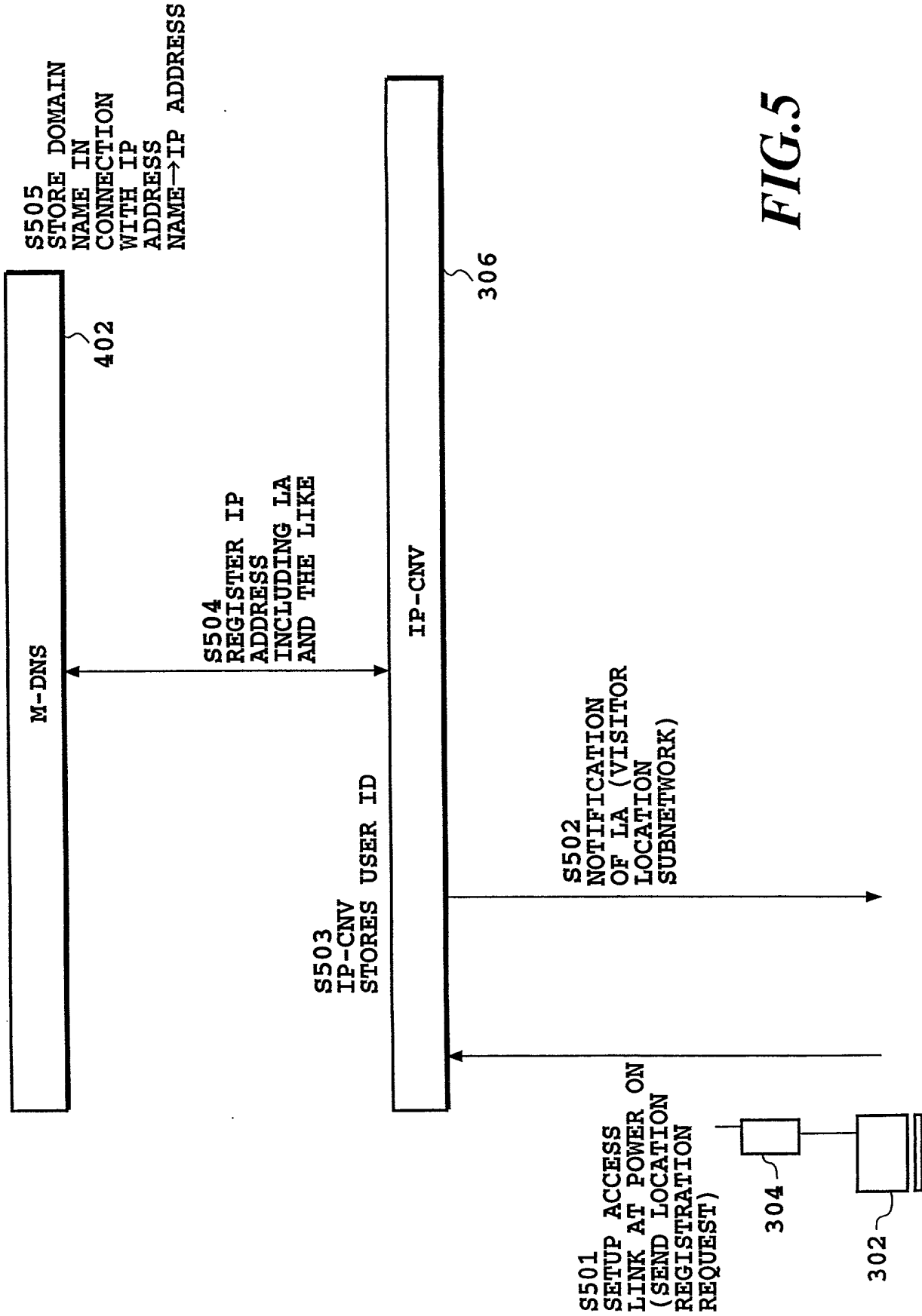


FIG.5

009070" 56229460

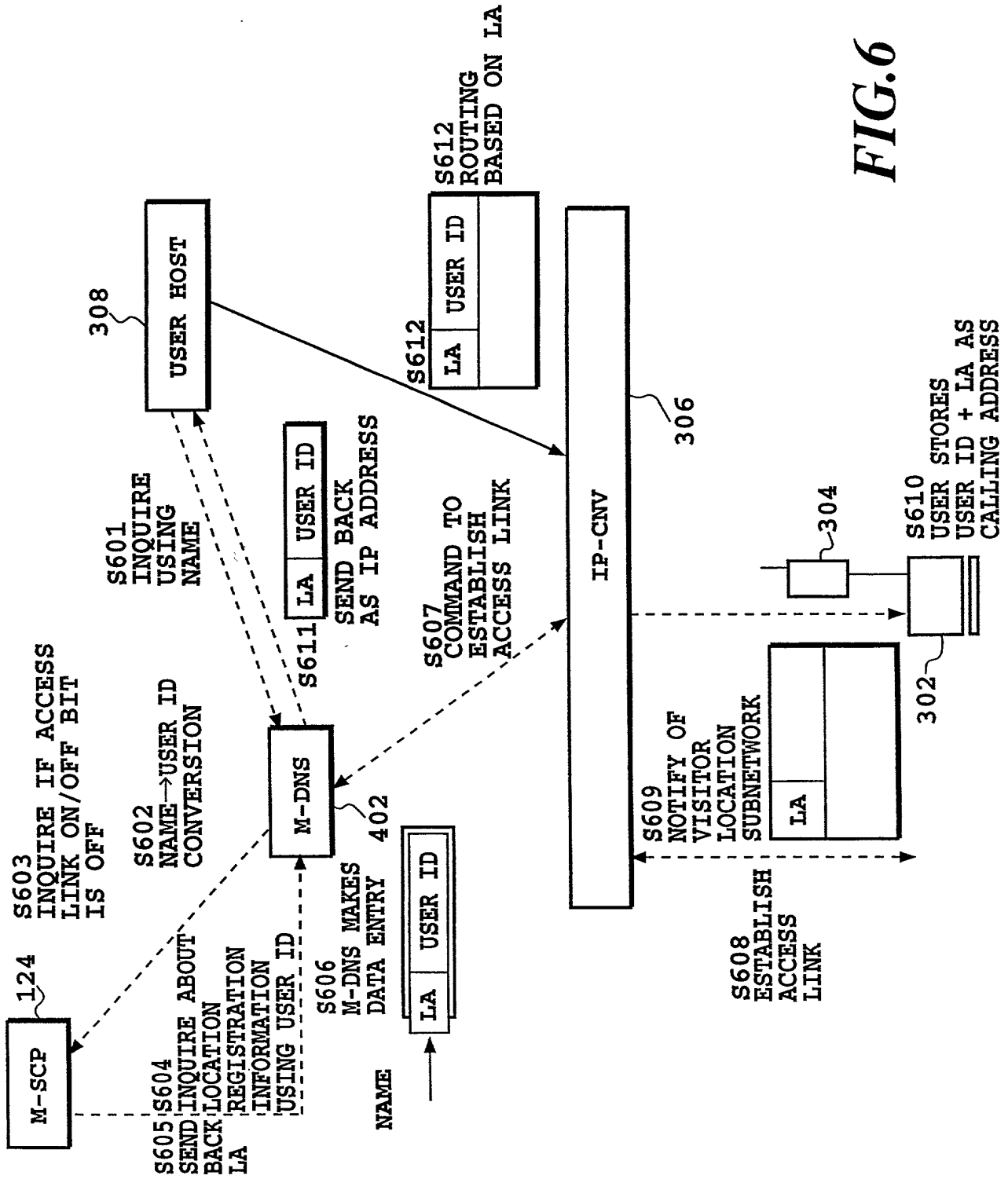


FIG.6

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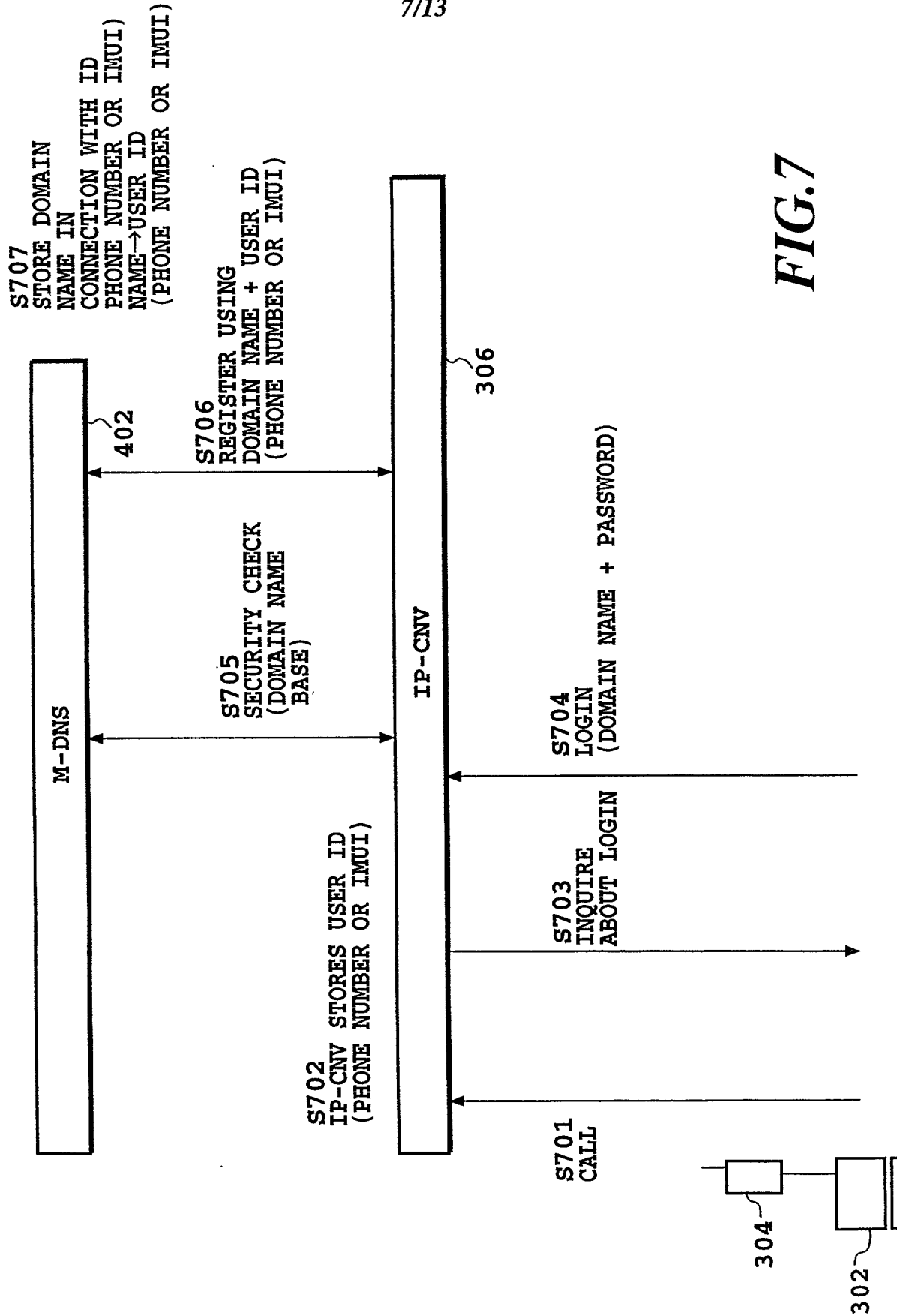


FIG.7

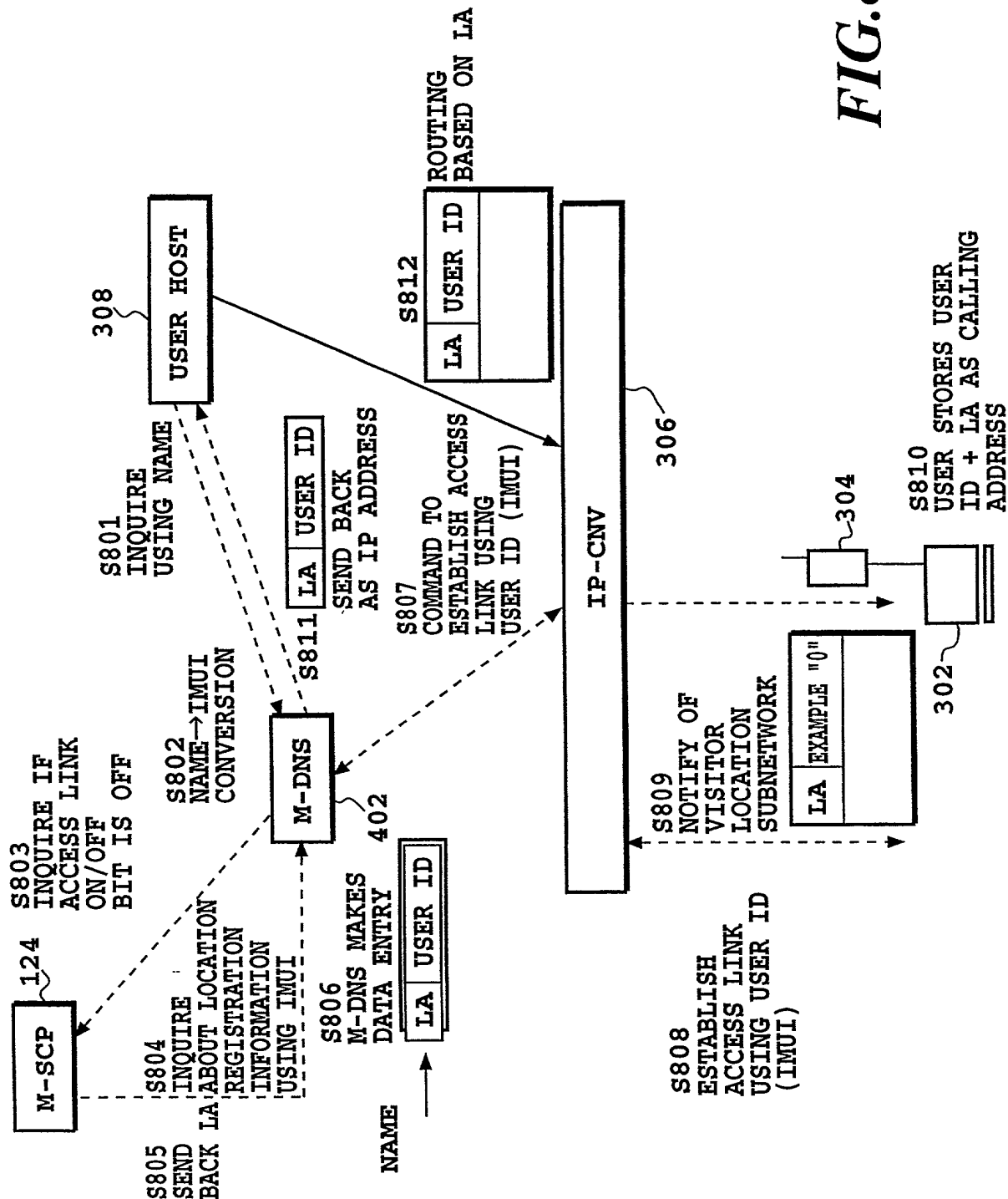


FIG.8

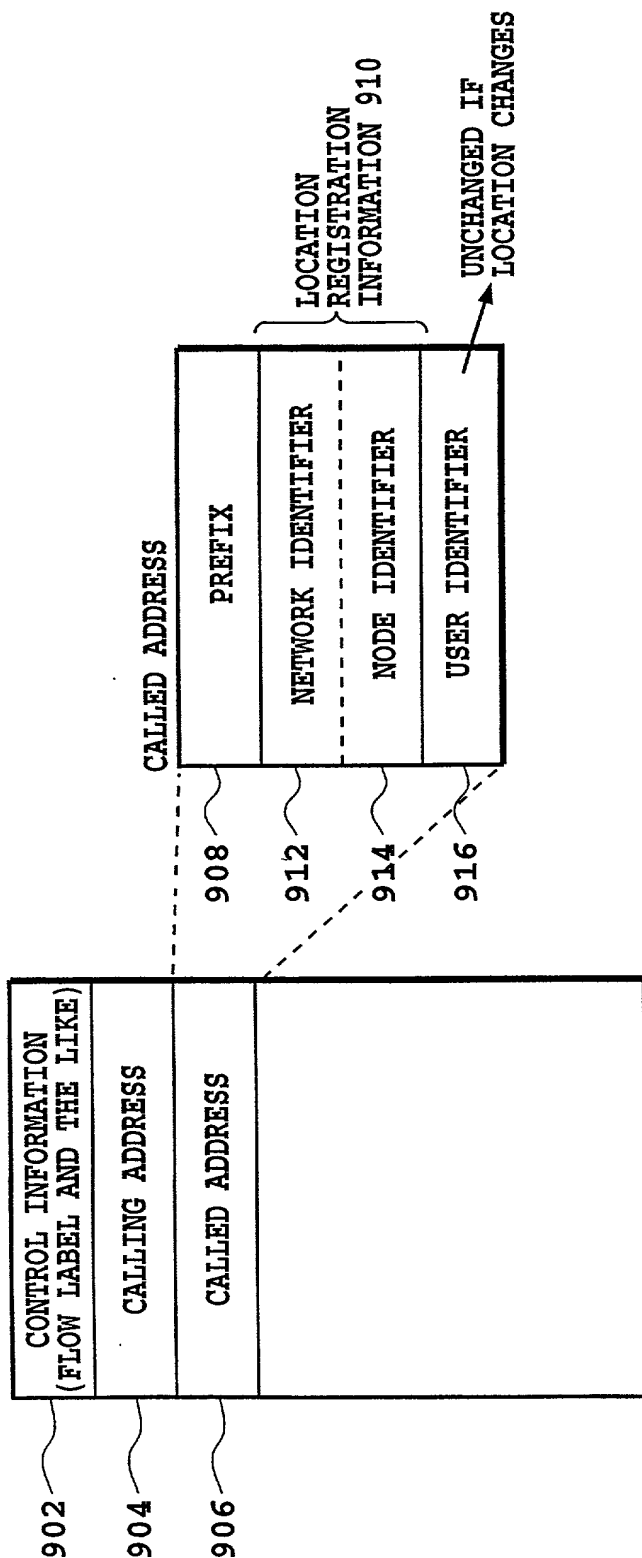


FIG.9B

FIG.9A

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FIG. 10

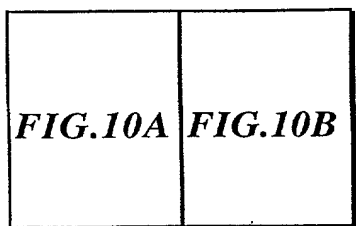
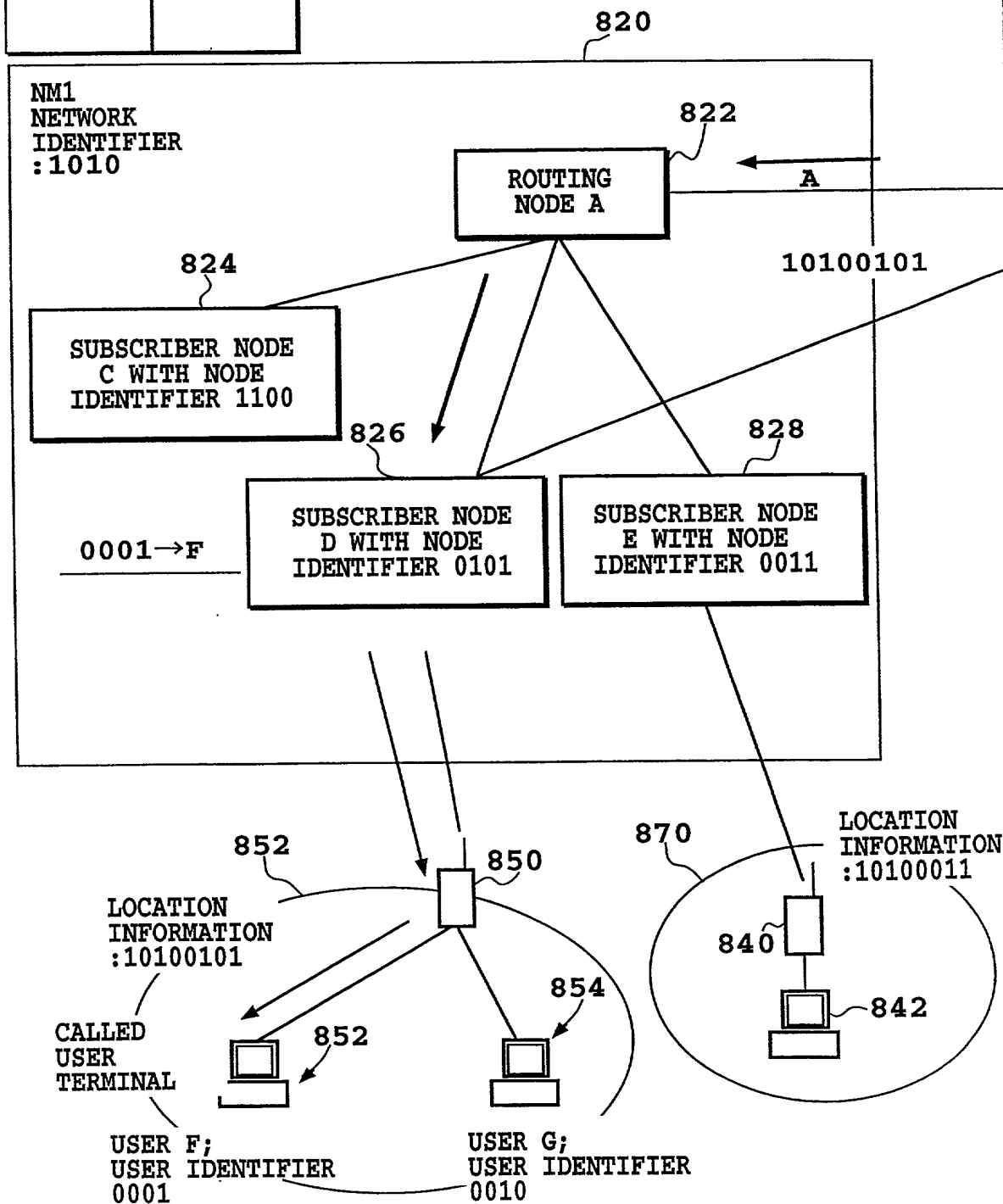


FIG. 10A



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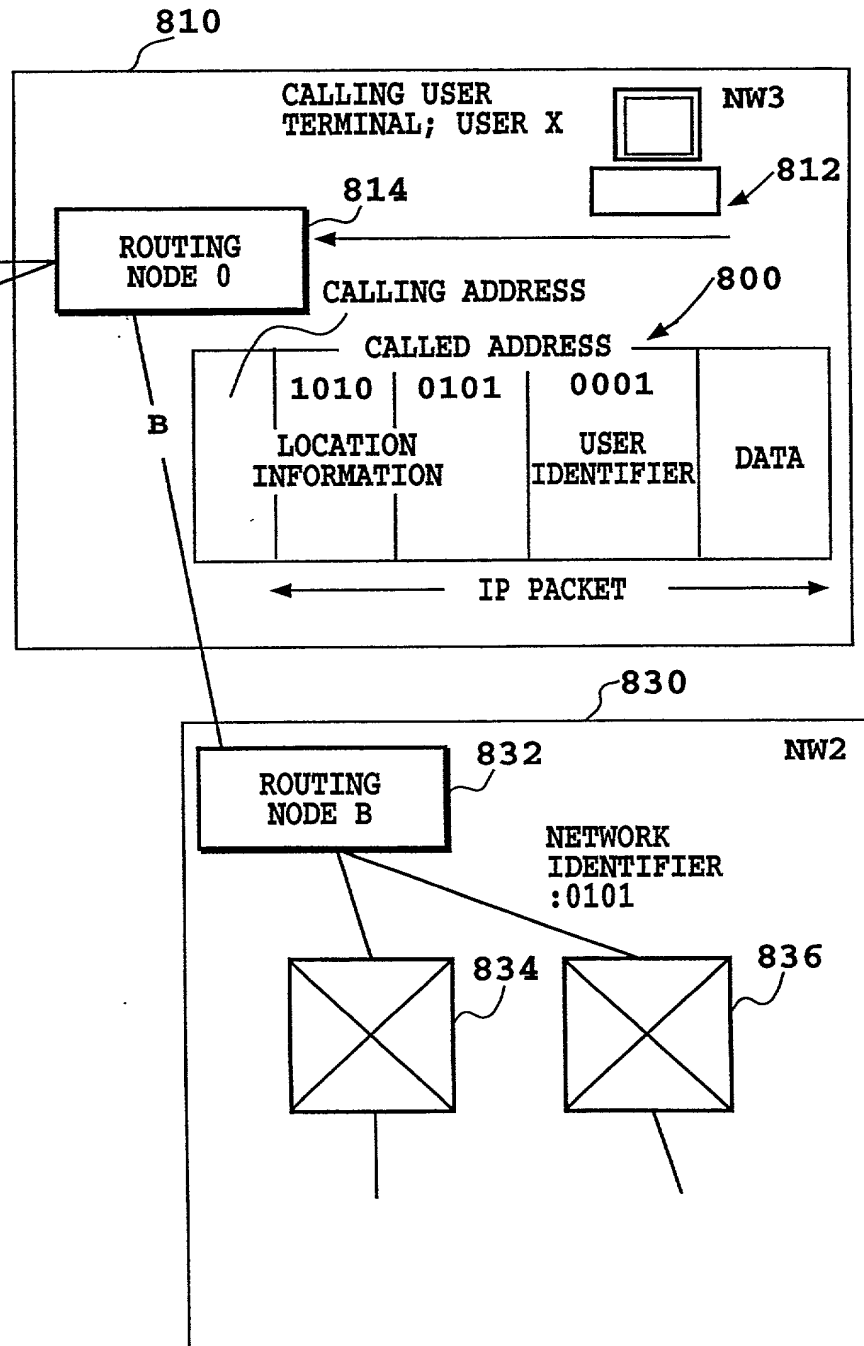
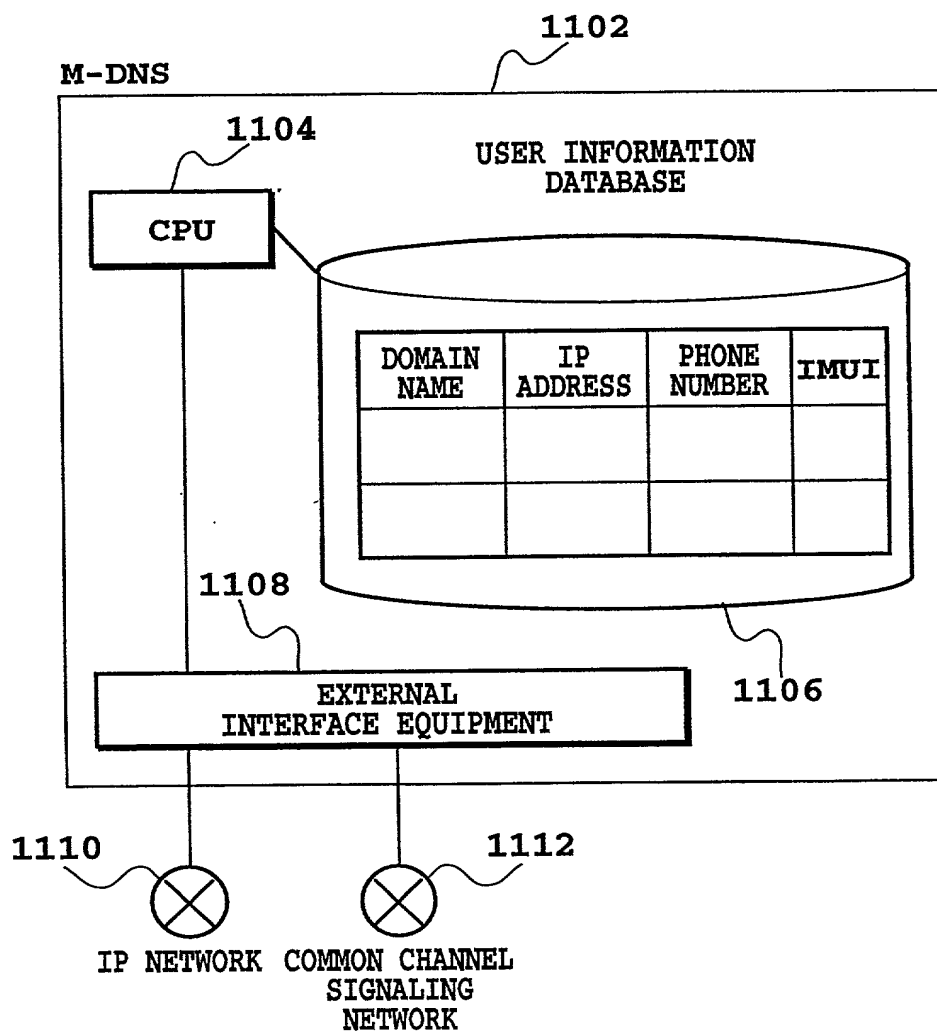


FIG. 10B

**FIG.11**

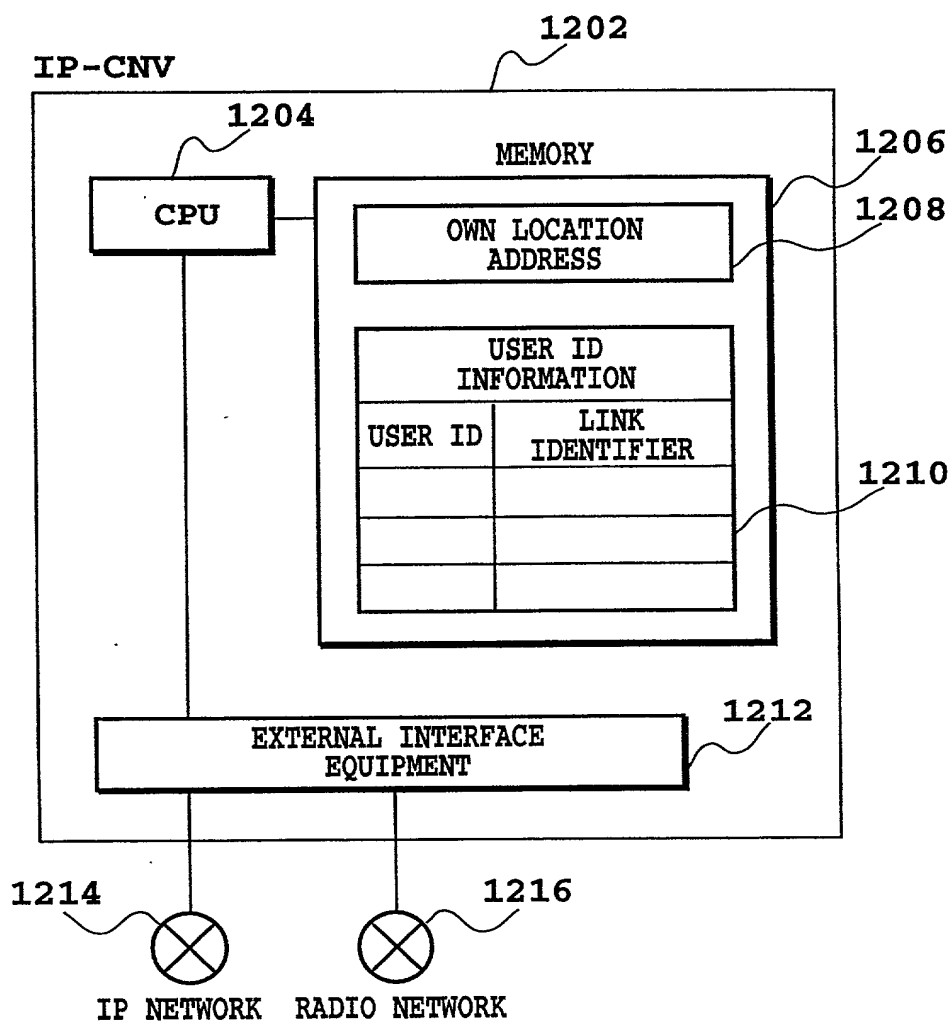


FIG.12

**DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY
FOR PATENT APPLICATION**

(COMPLETE IF KNOWN)

Application Number	
Filing Date	
Group Art Unit	
Examiner	

Attorney Docket Number	
First Named Inventor	NAKAJIMA

This declaration is (check one):

- ☒ submitted with initial filing;
☐ submitted after initial filing;
☐ a supplemental declaration.

This application is of the following type:

- ☒ utility;
☐ design;
☐ national stage of PCT;
☐ divisional, continuation or continuation-in-part.

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

PACKET TRANSMISSION METHOD, PACKET TRANSMISSION SYSTEM AND PACKET DATA
TRANSMISSION MEDIUM ON MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK SYSTEM

the specification of which: (check one)

- ☒ is attached hereto; or
☐ was filed on _____ as U.S. Application No. _____
and is/was amended on _____ (if applicable);
☐ was described and claimed in PCT International Application No. _____,
filed on _____ and was amended under PCT Article 19 on _____
(if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56.

I hereby identify below, and where indicated claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code §§ 119(a)-(d) or §§ 365(a)-(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or of any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America, filed within 12 months (6 months for design) prior to

this application, and have also identified below any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America filed by me on the same subject matter having a filing date before that of the application(s) on which priority is claimed (if any):

Foreign/PCT Application Number	Country	Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Priority Claimed	
10-126397	Japan	5/8/1998	(X) Yes	() No
			() Yes	() No
			() Yes	() No

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below (if any):

Provisional Application No.	Filing Date

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, § 120 of any United States application(s), or § 365(c) of any PCT International Application designating the United States of America listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT international application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, § 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

U.S./PCT Parent Application No.	Filing Date	Status (Patented, Pending, or Abandoned)
PCT/JP99/02384	May 7, 1999	Pending

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) or agent(s) with full power of substitution and revocation to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:

6

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(check one) Sheets containing additional joint inventors (X) are, () are not attached hereto.

46

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(check one) Sheets containing additional joint inventors () are, (X) are not attached hereto.